

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, MX
SUBJECT: CRITERIA FOR REPATRIATION LOANS

REF: GUADALAJARA'S WIRENOTE DATED FEBRUARY 16 TO EMBASSY
ONLY.

1. REFERENCED WIRENOTE STATED IN PART "CONSULATE IS
INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT CRITERIA EMBASSY USES IN THE
MAKING OF REPATRIATION LOANS. IT APPEARS THAT IN THE
LAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN
THE NUMBER OF LOANS MADE BY THE EMBASSY. THIS IS IN
CONTRAST TO THE 1 OR 2 MADE BY THIS POST IN THE LAST
SIX MONTHS AND TOTAL ABSENCE OF CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.
IF THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE REGS RE: LENDING
MONEY, PLEASE LET US KNOW SOONEST SO THAT WE CAN
AMEND OUR PROCEDURES".

2. EMBASSY CONGRATULATES CONGEN UPON EITHER THE HIGH
QUALITY OF ITS CLIENTELE OR ITS ABILITY TO REFUSE TO
PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITHOUT GENERATING COMPLAINTS. FOR
ITS PART, EMBASSY CCS RECEIVES ONE OR MORE REQUESTS
FOR ASSISTANCE IN RETURNING TO THE U.S. VIRTUALLY EVERY
WORKDAY AND OFTEN OUTSIDE BUSINESS HOURS. MANY OF
THESE REQUESTS CAN BE SATISFIED THROUGH PUTTING THE
APPLICANT IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS WHO CAN
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PROVIDE HIM WITH THE NEEDED FUNDS.

3. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A LARGE AND APPARENTLY INCREASING
NUMBER OF CASES WHERE ASSISTANCE CANNOT BE OBTAINED
FROM HOME, INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE ESTRANGED
FROM THEIR FAMILIES, MENTALLY DISTURBED PERSONS --
OFTEN VETERANS -- WHO CANNOT PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMA-

TION ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES' WHEREABOUTS, AND OLDER PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO FAMILIES. IF THE APPLICANT FOR ASSISTANCE APPEARS TO BE RATIONAL AND TO HAVE THE BONA FIDE INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THE U.S., A LOAN WILL ORDINARILY BE MADE SUFFICIENT TO COVER BUS TRANSPORTATION TO THE NEAREST BORDER POINT, WITH A LITTLE EXTRA FOR SUBSISTENCE. BECAUSE BUS FARE TO TIJUANA IS WITHIN THE FIFTY-DOLLAR AUTHORIZATION, THE EMBASSY WILL LOAN ENOUGH TO A WEST COAST RESIDENT TO TAKE HIM SIGNIFICANTLY CLOSER TO HIS HOME.

4. IN THE CASES OF PERSONS WHO ARE MENTALLY DISTURBED, ILL OR OTHERWISE REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN TRAVELLING, EMBASSY WILL APPLY TO DEPARTMENT FOR AUTHORITY TO REPATRIATE BY AIR, INCLUDING ESCORT IF NECESSARY, AND ARRANGE FOR ASSISTANCE BY HEW AT U.S. END.

5. IN DETERMING WHETHER A LOAN SHOULD BE GRANTED IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE, AFTER DETERMING THAT OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THE EMBASSY IS INCREASINGLY OBLIGED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE POSSIBLE COST TO THE USG IN TERMS OF MAN-HOURS OR MONEY IF THE LOAN IS NOT GRANTED. IT WILL ORDINARILY GRANT THE LOAN IF IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE APPLICANT WILL CREATE PROBLEMS FOR HIMSELF, THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR MEXICAN AUTHORITIES, IF HE REMAINS IN MEXICO, WITH WHICH THE EMBASSY

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SUBSEQUENTLY WILL HAVE TO DEAL. FOR EXAMPLE, THE REFUSAL TO GRANT A LOAN MAY BE LIKELY TO GENERATE CORRESPONDENCE IN SOME CASES WHICH WILL IN THE END BE MORE COSTLY THAN MAKING THE LOAN. IN OTHERS, MAKING A LOAN TO SOMEONE WHOSE BEHAVIOR SUGGESTS THAT HE IS LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR ARREST WILL PROBABLY BE LESS COSTLY THAN PROVIDING HIM WITH A&D SERVICES FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD. IN ALL OF THESE CASES, IT IS NECESSARY TO WEIGH THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE LOAN WILL BE REPAID AGAINST THE PROBABILITY THAT THE APPLICANT WILL COST THE GOVERNMENT EVEN MORE IF HE DOES NOT GET THE LOAN. (IT SHOULD NOT BE IMPLIED FROM ABOVE THAT EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS PRESENTLY MAKE REPATRIATION LOANS AS A MATTER OF COURSE, EVEN WHEN THE DESTITUTE CLAIMS HE HAS NO ONE WHO CAN SEND MONEY. ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF ABLE-BODIED MALES, IF THE CONOFF IS NOT SATISFIED THAT THE DESTITUTE HAS NOT MADE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTACT RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN THE STATES, HE WILL NOT USUALLY GRANT LOAN). THOMPSON

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